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Baby welfare committee

The Forgotten Army



the forgotten army
committee



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"Women's Century" articles and parts of
articles by a member of the sub-committee,
which have been already published in these
magazines, are quoted in this book.

Preliminary Report

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED
BY THE

Baby Welfare Committee (PUBLICITY SECTION SUB-COMMITTEE)

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It is more dangerous to be a baby in Montreal
than to be a Canadian soldier in France.

FOREWORD

"Where there is no VISION the people perish."—*Disraeli*.

The war which fills the grave empties the cradle.

Our Montreal babies have been saved from the direct ravages of war. They have been saved from death from bullets.

They have not been saved, however, from the indirect ravages of war. They have not been saved from death from bad milk, bad air, bad housing.

Daily the lives of our Montreal babies are being snuffed out. Daily the dreadful tide of infant mortality swells. Daily the pathetic little white hearses seek the City of The Dead.

DO YOU CARE ?

The Baby Welfare Committee of Montreal is prepared—with the moral and financial co-operation of the citizens of Montreal—to reduce the infant mortality of our city in 1919 by

ONE THOUSAND (1,000) LIVES

Are you interested ?

In the name of this Forgotten Army we appeal !

HELP US !

THINK !—If it were YOUR child !

" BACK FROM THE COMRADESHIP OF DEATH "

"Back from the comradeship of Death" to-day come thousands upon thousands of men who have been withdrawn from civil life for a time and who are now returning to it. They feel that they have deserved well of their country. Their imaginations have been greatly enhanced and quickened by the lurid scenes upon which they have looked daily. They have been inured to danger and the chances of death. Moreover they have learned certain lessons.

They have, for instance, learned comradeship in the trenches. They have learned the value of concerted action. They have learned the necessity of what Darwin calls "Association," Kropotkin, "Mutual Aid," and Christ, "Brotherly Love." They have learned in a bitter school that there is no escape from the iron law of that brotherhood which, scientifically speaking, is "Association."

Therefore they have learned that what lies at the base of all ethics should lie at the base of all government.

These men are returning. These men who have left wives and babies in Canada are returning to these wives and babies. From the terrific catastrophe which has reduced society to its primal elements and laid bare the heart of humanity, these men are returning to find—what?

That while they have been waging war on the destroyers of child life in Europe, we have been allowing the destroyers of child life in Canada to make a shambles of our country!

EXAGGERATION ?

Do you think that I am exaggerating? I answer with the simple fact that, according to the computation of experts, a Montreal baby has over ten chances to die compared with one experienced by its father at the front.

AND THESE MEN KNOW !

These men know that a little concerted action on the part of Federal, Provincial or Civic Governments, or even on the part of an aroused and grateful public, would have saved their

children to them. The Darwinian law of "Association," the Christian law of "Brotherly Love," if followed would have meant thousands of children saved to their fathers and mothers during the past four years of war.

Yet let us not sneer, as many are inclined to do, at what they call "our fabled Christianity." As Phillips Brooks justly remarks, "We cannot say that Christianity is a failure because it has never been tried!"—certainly not by our City Fathers in Montreal!

But what do you suppose the Veteran of the Great War thinks of us when, wounded, war-weary, and home-sick, he returns to Montreal, and finds in place of a laughing, living child—a tiny grave!

A BABY DYING NEEDLESSLY IS AN OUTRAGE ON SOCIETY

Children are not born to die in childhood. There is no good reason why ninety-nine out of a hundred children should not live to a ripe age. It is our duty to see that they do live.

The twenty-two infants out of a hundred who have died yearly in Montreal, have died for bad reasons, atrocious reasons, reasons which reflect infinite shame upon the conditions which kill them and the people responsible for those conditions. In other words upon US!

"A baby dying needlessly in infancy is an outrage on society, more serious than theft or arson." But who punishes this outrage? Before what court are arraigned the thieves who steal the children's lives? The Food Thieves who deprive them of proper nourishment? The Milk Profiteers who send up the price of milk needlessly, thus directly murdering more children than ever did Red Herod?

May we suggest that on the tomb of every child needlessly killed in Montreal this year be placed the inscription—"Killed—by Poverty and Greed!"—and the text, "It is not the will of my Father which is in Heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

This wail of the Montreal Rachels for their babes that are not—five thousand in one year!—is sheer waste of suffering. Our business as citizens is, as Ernest Williams has rightly remarked, to apply our Master's concern for the weak and the wronged to the needs and conditions of to-day. "Pity," says St. Bernard, "to have any force must be of the nature of a

passion." Unless we can throw into our pity for the dying infants of Montreal some of the zeal, some of the zest, which the Hohenzollern War Party flung into their preparations for the destruction of life, the bitter tale of death and pain will still be told; the dreary procession of murdered infants in dingy white hearses will still make hideous the streets of our city.

IF WE DO NOT LIKE ANYTHING !

When we despair of ever changing the evil conditions which surround us and which work such havoc among the children of the poor, let us say to ourselves these words, and let us say them loudly:

"If we do not like anything *WE CAN CHANGE IT!*"

Not many aeons ago we were little green monkeys clawing up trees by all fours. To-day the human race stands upright. Not many centuries ago, we deemed human flesh excellent fodder. To-day cannibalism is unfashionable. Not many YEARS ago we were hanging hungry children for stealing a loaf of bread. To-day the idea of such infamy chills our blood.

It is not too much to hope that our children will read of the annual carnage of infants here in Montreal with the same horrified astonishment with which we read of child-hanging. Let us hasten the day when this book will read like the record of an evil dream; when poverty, ignorance, bad housing, poisoned milk and foetid air will cease to take their dreadful toll of infant life and the little ghosts will not be moved to murmur as they pass from earth—

"Since I was so soon to be done for

I wonder what I was begun for."

"Why in the name of a gracious Heaven should such things be?" cried Dickens. To-day we, in Montreal, echo his cry and answer it: "Such things need not be." One-tenth of the time and energy which we put into war work,—one-twentieth of the money,—will abolish, utterly, absolutely and forever, the spectre of disgrace which haunts us.

WHAT CAN WE DO ?

That after all is the crux of the whole matter. Not what we can feel but what we can do to translate our feeling into action.

WILL BABY WELFARE WORK ?

Jack London avows that he has but one question to ask concerning any philosophy—"Will it work?" That is the first question that any intelligent man or woman will ask concerning Baby Welfare. "Will it work?" And the next question is akin to it. "Has it worked?"

To these questions we answer triumphantly. Baby Welfare has worked and Baby Welfare will work. When the Baby Welfare Committee says that it proposes to save the lives of a thousand babies (i.e., a thousand citizens of Canada) next year to their parents and to their nation, it is proposing something which it is not only willing but able to perform.

OTHERS HAVE BLAZED THE TRAIL

No pioneer work is needed of us. No special knowledge or ability on the part of the public is required to stop the carnage. Experts in Baby Welfare, public-minded men and women here and elsewhere, have given time, study, research, good-will and everything else that was needed to the solving of this distressing problem; and they have solved it. All the really hard part of the work is done. They have proved that, given sufficient funds to maintain Baby Welfare centres where pure milk may be obtained and child conservation taught, nearly all this sinful waste of child life may be stopped. But they cannot get—either from city, province or dominion—the comparatively trifling sum of money that would save the children and enable them to grow to robust and useful manhood and womanhood.

INDIFFERENCE THE CAUSE

All who are working for the soldier and the soldier's wife and child will hold up hands of shocked amazement at the idea that our indifference to the life of the soldier's child is depriving the soldier of his children. Yet let us examine the facts fairly. We have plenty of sentiment in Canada with regard to the returned soldier, but little intelligence. Now sentiment uncontrolled by intelligence is apt to be not only useless, but dangerous. Our sentiment is admirable; it does us credit as a nation. The question is; is it controlled by intelligence? What are we actually doing to help the soldier's child in Canada? And another question; what are other nations doing to help their soldiers' children?

Put the question in this form and it is easily answered. Canada—our Canada which has made so brave a showing at the front—stands in the rearguard of the nations where child-saving is concerned. It is the one nation among the Allies which has neglected the conservation of childlife. It is the one nation which has not insisted on earnest and scientific Government direction of public health matters. Our European Allies, at the commencement of the world war, made the fatal mistake of neglecting child welfare. Before long the results of this neglect were so apparent, so serious, that, in the very midst of the bitter, breathless conflict, steps were taken, not only to restore old standards of child protection, but to create new and ample measures of child conservation.

If these hard-pressed countries, in the very midst of the war, could pause, could recognize the imperative necessity for stopping the wastage of childlife, surely we, in comparatively immune Canada, can do as much.

Why, in the United States, the Child Saving organizations are preparing to reduce the infant mortality during 1919 by no less than

ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (100,000) LIVES !

Alas ! Our Mother Country, our sister colonies, have already far outstripped us in the matter of humane legislation and sociological reform. Now are we going to permit our great neighbour, the United States, to also outdo us ? And if so,—

WHY ?

One might suppose that a baby, sheltered at home and cared for by a mother, would have a better chance for life than a soldier on active service. What are the facts of the case ? Newton Baker, United States Secretary of War, states, on information received that the annual losses of the British forces from deaths in action, and wounds, amount to 2.3 per cent. Now in Montreal alone, during the past twelve years, over twenty children out of each hundred born failed to reach the age of one year. Therefore, as before stated, the British soldier, braving disease and death in camp and battlefield, has over ten times a better chance of living than has his child born in Montreal.

THE VETERAN HAS LEARNED TO THINK

Just how will the returned soldier view these facts ?

Bear in mind that the Veteran of the Great War has learned to think. He has learned that words count for little and actions for much. He has learned that murder cannot be stopped by polite conversation. He has learned that the first duty of a soldier is to find out what he wants and then to fight for it.

He has also—we may assume—the natural instincts of a father. Will he be pleased when he discovers—as he must !—that, while he has been fighting for us, his baby at home has died—from purely preventible causes which we did not prevent ?

He will not be pleased. That much we may, I think, take for granted. Yet we may hope that he will forgive us in consideration of the fact that this is and has been an abnormal time. Everyone of intelligence or ability, as well as the rank and file of us who can justly lay claim to neither distinction, has been engrossed with war work of one sort or another. Patriotic work which directly benefits the fighting man is more picturesque, more appealing, than the kind of underground work which results in saving the life of the soldier's child. Yet, now that the war is ended—now that we have time to, as it were, look about us, and draw a long breath—now we must face the situation fairly and prepare to co-operate with the soldier-father who "did his bit" for Canada, or else prepare to deserve his lasting condemnation.

We must see to it that the waste of childlife in Canada is stopped. We must see to it that childlife in Canada is protected. We must conserve Canadian children with the same patriotic fervour and religious solemnity with which, in the past few years, we have been conserving Canadian bacon. Believe me, the returned soldier will appreciate our efforts to preserve his child at least as much as he appreciated our efforts to provide him with bacon.

Remember !—this thing must be done—AND AT ONCE !

NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT

There are no two ways about it. If it is right to spend money broadcast on diseased people, crippled people, criminal people, useless people, profitless people—and every government

in the world to-day says that it is right—then it is right to spend money on profitable people, healthy people, innocent people—the people of the future, the children of the slums. To allow the young life of the nation to be poisoned at its source is not only wicked, it is imbecile. Life has been poured out at the front; we deplore with horror the evil waste and are only consoled by the thought that such waste is necessary in order to safeguard life in the future. But where is the logic in spending life in France to save life, and then throwing life away in Canada for no reason whatever? Where is the logic in raising money to save the lives of Belgian babies, and then in complacently ignoring the waste of life among Canadian children?

This waste of life is almost entirely unnecessary. The death-rate among infants cared for by one Montreal Milk Station in 1917 was half of one per cent. The death-rate among babies cared for by the 25 Montreal Milk Stations has averaged four per cent during the past five years. The death-rate among children not cared for by any Milk Station, in other words, among children poisoned by bad milk and neglect, averages twenty-two per cent during the last ten years. During one week last July, 98 babies under one year of age died. These children were killed by us. I make this statement seriously. It is high time that we realized that it is murder to let a child die at one's door for want of a piece of ice or a bottle of fresh milk—or for want of legislation which will secure it these!—as truly as it is murder to put a bullet through it.

CHILDREN CANNOT BE SAVED INDIVIDUALLY

"Children," says Charlotte Gilman, "suffer individually from bad conditions, but cannot be saved individually." In a complex civilization such as ours we must deal not with effects but with causes. We must go to the root of the whole matter. "The great discovery of the twentieth century," says Ernest Williams, President of the London Brotherhood Federation, "is that public care for the children must begin before their birth."

Every child born into this world, simply because it is a child, a part of the human race to which we belong, should be assured proper food, housing, air, decent education, and a mother sufficiently versed in the care of infants to give it proper attention. "Ignorance, carelessness, and neglect" are not all the fault of the mother. They are the fault of the community to

which that mother belongs. Baby Welfare is the most important and comprehensive movement on earth; for in order to ensure the welfare of infants we must ensure, to a greater or less extent, the welfare of their parents. As the Hon. A. H. D. Acland pertinently observes, "An adequate wage for the breadwinner of the family is essential if the children are to do well."

To illustrate Mrs Gilman's remark anent children being saved collectively: The adulteration of milk is responsible for much of the infant mortality, failure to provide proper refrigeration on the part of the railroads is responsible for much more, and bad housing and general insanitary conditions account for most of the rest. The community that permits these crimes against human life is responsible for their ravages. You and I—remaining quiescent while Child-Murder stalks among us—are accessories to that murder and will be so judged before the Great Tribunal.

Let us consider one alone of these evils—milk-adulteration.

Mr. Nathan Strauss, the philanthropist, whose Pasteurized Milk Depots have saved many thousands of baby lives during the past twelve years, calls this adulteration by its proper name—child-murder. He says:

"If I were to walk into Madison Square Garden and announce that at eight o'clock on a certain evening I would publicly strangle a child, what excitement there would be!

"If I walked out into the ring to carry out my threat a thousand men would stop me and kill me—and everyone would applaud them for doing so.

"But every day children are actually murdered by neglect or by poisonous milk. The murders are as real as the murder would be if I should choke a child to death before the eyes of a crowd."

Every day in Montreal, babies are poisoned by neglect and by impure or adulterated milk.

CAN YOU REFUSE TO HELP TO STOP THE MURDER ?

Let me repeat: Every child born into this world of ours, simply because it is a child, a human being, is entitled to proper food, housing, air, and a mother sufficiently versed in the care of infants to give it adequate attention. There is one admirable way of securing it these. Since the suggestion may seem, at first blush, slightly radical, may I ask your most careful attention while I explain the plan.

Let me state, to begin with, emphatically and positively, that sound child-bearing and rearing is a service done, not to a particular man, but to the whole community. All our legal arrangements for motherhood should be based on that conception. A woman who is a mother is as much entitled to "support, freedom, respect and dignity" as a policeman, a fireman, a bishop, a judge, an alderman, or anyone else whom the State sustains. Let me here quote H. G. Wells on this subject.

"Suppose the State secures to every married woman who is becoming or likely to become a mother a certain wage from her husband to secure her against the need of toil and anxiety. Suppose it pays her a certain gratuity upon the birth of a child, and continues to pay at regular intervals sums sufficient to keep her and her child in independent freedom, so long as the child keeps up to the minimum standard of health and physical and mental development. Suppose it pays more upon the child when it rises markedly above certain minimum qualifications, physical and mental, and, in fact, does its best to make thoroughly efficient motherhood a profession worth following ?

Under such conditions a career of wholesome motherhood would be the normal and remunerative calling for a woman, and a capable woman who had borne, bred, and begun the education of a satisfactory family would be also a prosperous woman."

This suggestion is quoted without comment !

HISTORY OF BABY WELFARE IN MONTREAL

It seems a little difficult to believe that the first concerted scientific attempt to conserve infant life in Montreal was made only in 1907, when the "Mothers' Clinic," Colborne Street, was started by Mrs. W. S. Maxwell and Mrs. Rose Henderson, with the medical assistance of Dr. W. A. L. Styles (now President of the Affiliated Baby Welfare Stations) and Dr. F. M. Fry. Some 170 infants received daily attention, free of charge, at this pioneer Infant Welfare Station (then known as "Milk Station") and a splendid record was achieved. Will it be believed that during that year when 27 per cent of the infants of Montreal perished, only 2 per cent among those cared for by this station died ! 2 per cent as against 27 per cent ! May we not logically conclude, citizens of Montreal, that of the 27

per cent who died that summer—**TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT WERE MURDERED !**

A strong statement ? Oh, very ! The time for strong statements has arrived. We have evaded the disgraceful facts long enough; the time has come to face—**AND ALTER THEM !**

Now, as regards this station ! After three years of remarkable—may we not say, glorious—achievement, the Clinic Committee were reluctantly obliged to cease their efforts. Why ? Because the municipal grant of one hundred dollars per annum went such a very small way toward meeting necessary expenses, that the private philanthropists who had been giving lavishly to this noble work became justly discouraged and disheartened at the lack of appreciation evinced by City Hall and public.

Shortly afterwards the Iverley and University Settlements, as well as the Local Council of Women, established Infant Welfare Stations which materially reduced the terrible death toll. In fact the success achieved along these lines has been so spectacular, so unbroken, so entirely convincing to the sceptic, that further developments have followed naturally. Now, in 1919, twenty-nine Welfare Stations are in operation and a large and flourishing Baby Welfare Movement is afoot. (See Appendix.) As has before been stated the average deaths among infants cared for by these stations is four per cent as against the usual twenty-two per cent; **and one station has actually a record of half of one per cent.** These are facts,—facts of vital importance to ourselves and to our City. Why do we not face these facts and recognize the splendid work of these organizations more definitely than we do ? The enormous waste of life in war must be replaced; our most imperative duty at present is to save the lives of infants. "The war," says Katharine Tynan, "has made children the most important things in the world."

These things have been done here in Montreal. I defy anyone to mention an association, here or elsewhere, which has achieved better results with the same amount of money in the same space of time. These really remarkable achievements are the result of—

1. The careful exhaustive study of Baby Welfare by experts.

2. The energy with which these experts have translated theory into practice.
3. The harmonious co-operation of the various societies and individuals composing the Baby Welfare Committee.

"Union is strength." As far as it has gone Baby Welfare is a triumphant success. But, for obvious reasons it has not gone very far. The Baby Welfare Committee is in the position of a strong and zealous housewife armed with a limited amount of soap and water. She is able to make an oasis of cleanliness in the midst of an expanse of filth—then her tiny pailful of soap and water is exhausted and she can only point to results achieved as a plea that she be given more ample supplies.

Comparatively speaking, the Baby Welfare Committee needs little in the way of funds. The Montreal Civic Administration spends eighteen or nineteen millions yearly. Of this sum **twelve thousand dollars** is spent on Baby Welfare. I am no mathematician. Please compute for yourselves the exact proportion of our civic income which goes to preserve the lives of our Montreal infants. And bear in mind, as you compute, these facts: that "the baby crop pays best"; that "Baby Welfare is an index of civilization"; that "the infant mortality rate is the most sensitive sign we possess of social welfare"; that "as civilization goes down, the baby death rate goes up."

And we spend \$12,000 yearly on combating the deadly infant mortality which makes Montreal one of the most dangerous places on earth for the infant !

Ponder, I beg of you, these few simple and damning facts !

1. About five thousand babies die in Montreal yearly.
2. About 100 babies die in Montreal weekly.
3. About 14 babies die in Montreal daily.
4. A baby under twelve months of age dies in Montreal about every hour and a quarter.
5. **Fifty thousand babies have died here in the last thirteen years.**

Twelve thousand dollars ! And we, in Montreal, spend \$45,000 in one year on repairs to Back River Bridges, \$76,726 on our Civic Law Department, and \$3,104,386 on general administration. And the present civic grant to the English Milk Stations meets only 15 per cent of the actual cost of maintaining them !

Then a further point ! Besides the four or five thousand babies who die annually, there are untold thousands who struggle

through life mentally and physically handicapped by the conditions which have surrounded them in infancy. Biologically the first few years are of supreme importance. "The problem of the child," says Plato, "is the problem of the race." Sad, is it not, that we, after twenty centuries of Christianity, should still be less civilized than the Greek who died before His coming.

Among the four or five thousand babies who perish yearly and among the countless other thousands whose lives are stunted and spoiled, it is highly probable that a few persons of extraordinary character and unusual mental gifts are driven out of life or rendered useless; persons who, like the unborn infants in Maeterlinck's "Bluebird," might have driven sin and death from the world and altered the very complexion of the planet. This we shall never know.

We do know however that a life is estimated at the rate of \$1,700. That is the estimated value of a human life to its country. Of course the value to humanity of such a life as Plato's, Elizabeth Fry's, Florence Nightingale's, Dickens, can hardly be computed in dollars and cents. Even supposing that among the poisoned hordes of Montreal babies, no "mute inglorious Milton" is numbered, we must still acknowledge that we have been somewhat prodigal in the matter of life.

Without delving too deeply into the why and wherefore of the lamentable conditions which we are discussing, let us glance briefly over the general state of affairs in the Province of Quebec as a whole and of Montreal in particular.

EXTRACTS FROM STATISTICAL YEAR BOOK, PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT, QUEBEC, PUBLISHED 1918

INFANT MORTALITY IN P.Q., BASED ON 1,000 BIRTHS:—

1902.....	136
1906.....	130
1910.....	178
1914 (Australia was 71).....	161
1915 (New Zealand was 50).....	153
1916.....	165

INFANT MORTALITY IN MONTREAL:—

1912, per 1,000 births.....	238
1913, per 1,000 births.....	232
1914, per 1,000 births.....	234
1915, per 1,000 births.....	182
1916, per 1,000 births.....	185
1917, per 1,000 births.....	178

CERTAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN P.Q.:—

Period 1904-1908—There was an annual average of 19,074 deaths, of which 312 from Typhoid; 204 from Measles; 47 from Scarlatina; 483 from Diphtheria; 1,791 from T.B.C.; and 3,175 from Diarrhoea; 516 Premature Births.

Period 1909-1913—There was an annual average of 17,943 deaths, of which 288 from Typhoid; 222 from Measles; 124 from Scarlatina; 273 from Diphtheria; 1,596 from T.B.C.; 3,265 from Diarrhoea, and 628 Premature Births.

SOME VITAL STATISTICS OF P.Q.:—

	1916	1915	1914	1913
Births.....	80,327	83,274	80,361	79,089
Still-Born.....	1,126	1,152	1,160	1,167
Premature Births.....	1,220	1,069	1,260	1,228
Total Deaths.....	40,542	35,933	36,002	36,200
Deaths under 1 year.....	13,278	12,775	12,969	13,295
Ratio of deaths under 1 year per 1,000 births.....	165	153	161	168

We see by these statistics what we, as a Province and as a City, are doing. Since our present concern is chiefly with our own City let us dwell thoughtfully on the fact that in 1914 there were 234 deaths out of a thousand infants in Montreal as compared with 71 in a thousand in Australia; that in 1915 there

were 153 deaths in Montreal as compared with 50 in New Zealand.

The death-rate in New Zealand, less than forty years ago, was the highest in the world. To-day it is the lowest with the exception of one state in Australia. In both our sister Dominions women, so soon as they received the vote, worked for and almost immediately obtained a startling reduction in infant mortality. The vote is not an end in itself, as we who have worked here for the Suffrage have always maintained and insisted. It is a means to an end. It is the means by which we make our will manifest in the laws and conditions of our country. What do we, the enfranchised women of Canada, intend to do with our power now that we possess it? Will future historians say of us that the women of Canada proved less humane, less intelligent, than the women of Australia and New Zealand?

Yes. They will say this very thing **and with truth** unless we hasten to redeem ourselves; unless we immediately ally ourselves with some Baby Welfare organization, unless we avail ourselves of the literature and information to be obtained from the leaders of the movement, unless we make a deliberate and strenuous effort to wipe out the standing disgrace of Canada—the Infant Mortality rate—from the slate.

Let us begin with our own City of Montreal. Let us make a record here. Appended are a list of suggestions—further developments of the Baby Welfare movement—which must be put into action with the least possible delay if the Infant Mortality is to be effectively reduced.

This plan was compiled by men who thoroughly understand the needs of the child in Canada and elsewhere, and who are conversant with conditions and remedies. Give it, I beg of you, careful consideration.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ABATING INFANTILE MORTALITY IN MONTREAL

1. The establishment of a civic Bureau of Baby and Child Welfare (Dept. of Health) under the supervision of an experienced director. This director should have unrestricted power to carry out modern and effective improvements without too much routine.
2. The expenditure by this department on Baby and Child Welfare of at least fifty thousand dollars annually (at present

only \$14,000 is expended, part of which goes to executive expenses) to save the babies of Montreal.

3. The establishment of Baby Health Centres at stated intervals according to the density and requirements of the districts. This would necessitate the operation of at least fifty stations; at present twenty-nine are in operation, with some overlapping, while Maisonneuve, with 35,000 population, has only one station, and that supported entirely by private subscription, with no civic support.

4. Every station to have on the staff at least one nurse with a diploma for baby welfare work who will be paid a salary in keeping with her services. One doctor at least to be attached to each station, and to be on salary and in attendance daily.

5. Prenatal care to be vigorously undertaken. It is of no less importance in the preservation of infant life than the milk station movement. The expectant mothers must be provided with the best medical and nursing care. Prenatal care must be encouraged.

6. During three summer months, at least, five Baby Welfare Camps to be operated at Fletcher's Field, Lafontaine Park, Maisonneuve, St. Helen's Island, Point St. Charles, thoroughly equipped with trained nurses and doctors. Clinics to be held daily and mothers to be educated in the care of the baby.

7. Every birth to be registered at the City Hall, and the name and address of the mother mailed immediately to the Baby Welfare Health Centre.

8. Home visiting and clinical supervision by the physician and nurse of mother and child for at least one month after confinement, with frequent and thorough physical examinations.

9. Registering the mother and child at the nearest Baby Health Centre with constant home visiting by the nurse until the child is two years of age.

10. All milk sold in the City of Montreal to be graded and thoroughly tested daily. Severe penalties for offenders against these laws.

11. The Establishment of Children's Bureaux, Federal and Provincial.

12. The operation of Travelling Baby Health Centres, accompanied by one baby specialist doctor and two baby nurses to be in daily use from Spring to Fall (regulated by weather conditions), special attention to be given to foreign districts and districts not protected by any means of Baby Welfare.

"WHAT CAN I DO?"

"But," you will say, "what can I, an average person possessing no especial influence, wealth, talent, or even time—what can I do to reduce this crying evil? I acknowledge the truth of all this—I see, that we, as a community, are greatly to blame for this carnage. But what can I—the individual—do?"

Here are a few simple suggestions compiled for the use of the man or woman who has neither time, money nor special knowledge to devote to this great problem.

1. Become identified with a Baby Health Centre Milk Station and do something to help it.

2. Agitate at any club or organization to which you belong for more vigorous consideration of the Infant Welfare Work.

3. Demand by letter and resolution greater activity and larger financial grants from the Dept. of Health and the City Council Administrative Commission of Montreal; also from the Provincial Dept. of Health of the Province of Quebec.

4. Demand a Board of Education which will plan to educate all children, especially girl-children, on the Infant Welfare problems by such means as "Little Mothers' Clubs," and similar organizations which have met with marked success elsewhere.

5. Keep constantly before the attention of Food Boards, Reconstruction Committees and similar bodies the relatively great importance of conserving child life in Canada.

6. Press for the establishment of a Federal Department of Health and a Bureau of Child Welfare. The following letter, written in October, 1918, by the President of the B.W.C., will show plainly the need for and value of such a department in Canada.

^ FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Editor, Montreal Daily Star.

Sir,—The epidemic of Spanish Influenza is raging throughout Canada, thousands are victims of this insidious disease, and the mortality is appalling.

The Federal power at Ottawa is idle—the concentrated strength (in this case weakness) of all the people is dormant.

To protect the citizens of Canada against such calamities, a Department of Health, at Ottawa, should be established immediately by the Federal Government.

(1) To have at its command the best expert knowledge available.

(2) To encourage and stimulate the acquisition of the best information bearing upon the prevention and cure of disease.

(3) To make the results of such research known to the general public.

(4) To co-operate with the Provincial and Local Boards of Health, and all agencies working throughout Canada, to make this country of ours healthier and more agreeable. A Department of Health under a Minister who will confine its administrative functions to purely medical matters, without multiplying the existing number of salaried officials—who at times make our lives a burden—could be developed into one of the most important and useful of all the Government activities, and would greatly strengthen the bonds of unity between the people and the Government in power at Ottawa.

The people of Canada have gladly suffered much in this war for the principle of liberty and democracy. If we are consistent in our struggle for democracy then let us as a people demand from the Canadian Government—our Government—the establishment of a Department of Health. A distributing centre for all classes of the highest and best knowledge relative to good health. The time has arrived when the best means for preserving health and curing disease should be available to every citizen, irrespective of his position or geographical location. The great majority of diseases from which we, both young and old, suffer are preventable. What better field of Government activity than to assist to prevent them !

The Government spends annually large sums of money providing for the welfare of the hogs and cattle of Canada.

Why should the most valuable asset that any country can possess—the human being—be entirely ignored ? Public opinion is usually one generation in advance of Government legislation. Can our Government, in the face of the enormous loss of manpower since the war commenced, neglect so important a matter as the preservation of human life ?

Every club, society or organization in this city or province should appeal to the Premier and Cabinet Ministers at Ottawa, to convince these rulers that the people of Canada are in earnest in their demand for the establishment of a Federal Department of Health and without delay.

J. ARTHUR MCBRIDE,
President, Baby Welfare Committee.

WHAT OF THE CANADA FOOD BOARD ?

So much for the proposed Dept. of Health. Now with regard to the Food Board !

One embarks with considerable hesitation on the question of our Canadian Food Board. It has done useful work in encouraging and facilitating the production of food, and has made tentative and timid efforts in the direction of food conservation. Thus we must give it credit for valuable achievement along certain lines.

But—and this is a serious indictment !—the appointment of a Food Board has made no appreciable reduction whatsoever in our infant mortality rate. One hesitates to blame the Food Board for this or, rather, to blame the Food Board alone. The Food Board blames the responsible citizens who have not tackled this big problem; the responsible citizens blame the Civic Government whom they have appointed to attend to all such questions; the Civic Government blames the Provincial, the Provincial blames the Federal. Meanwhile the babies die; die unprotected, unpitied, almost unnoticed, save by the Baby Welfare Committee and its adherents.

Self-preservation being the first law of the planet, food, the first factor in self-preservation, is probably, whether we like to think so or not, the most important subject in the universe. The Food Board, IF it were composed of expert sociological authorities, and IF it had power to carry out its own mandates, could put a period to much of the suffering and most of the infant mortality among the poor.

"Much virtue in your 'if' ! No one seems clearly to understand whether the Government is the dog that wags the Food-Board-ian tail, whether the Food Board is a real live Carlo with power not only to bark but to bite, or whether it is a sort of "beautiful ineffectual angel beating in the void its luminous wings in vain."

A correspondence held by the writer with the Chairman of the Food Board will be found in the Appendix and will present both sides of the case quite fully. Acknowledgment should be made here of the courtesy with which Mr. Thomson, Chairman of the Food Board, answered the questions submitted to him despite the extreme demands which his position made both upon his time and his attention.

Only such portions of the correspondence as bear directly and indirectly upon the question of Infant Welfare have been

included. The subject of "price-fixing" is especially commended to the attention of the public. The determination of the Food Board, religiously adhered to, not to "fix prices" under any circumstances, lays it open at least to the suspicion that it does not clearly understand what failure to "fix prices" means in suffering and death to other people, and especially to other people's children.

In the beginning of the war the price of pulp and paper rose so high that it looked as though many newspapers would be obliged to go into liquidation. Wealthy newspaper proprietors protested to Ottawa. A Commissioner was appointed who fixed the price of these commodities despite the indignant protests of the pulp-and-paper men.

If prices were fixed in order to save newspaper proprietors from failure, prices could have been fixed in order to save Canadian children from hunger and death.

"The liberty of the individual" to curtail the lives of others is a liberty which cannot be too drastically and promptly interfered with. I make this statement deliberately and I shall continue to make it, in public and in private, so long as I draw the breath of life.

WANTED—ONE MAN, ONE WOMAN

Now having pointed out the avenues open to the average man or woman may we leave you with one thought. One exceptional man or woman endowed with wealth, influence, and intelligence, could alter conditions here so positively and dynamically that Montreal could stand before the world a shining example rather than the awful warning which she is at present representing. If among us there were one man of the character of Lord Shaftesbury, one woman of the calibre of Florence Nightingale, the whole situation would be revolutionized.

To-day a vast army of intelligent, refined, highly trained women known as "nurses" testify to the abiding influence of Florence Nightingale. "Sairy Gamp" is dead. Florence Nightingale killed her. To-day a long list of Factory Laws testify to the heart and the mind of that Lord Shaftesbury who, when his country refused to believe that children of five were being worked sixteen hours a day in underground mines,

disguised himself as a miner and descended, like our Lord, into the abyss—to reappear clothed with God-like knowledge and power, demanding—and receiving—redress of the children's wrongs. Among the thousands who read this pamphlet may we not hope that one Shaftesbury, one Nightingale, may be found ?

And the result, if found ?

This: that instead of attaining our modest objective of one thousand infants' lives saved during 1919, we shall attain—and possibly surpass !—New Zealand's record. Why not ? What hinders us save greed and sloth and ignorance ? One man or woman of power can cut sword-like through the filaments which bind us, can put an end to the appalling record of child-murder.

How ? By simply doing what has been done elsewhere. What New Zealand has done, what Australia has done, Canada can do—and MUST.

What of the Montreal Baby Health Centre, with the mortality record of half of 1 per cent ?

If we do our utmost here in Montreal—if we show unmistakably and sharply what CAN be done—the rest of Canada will not be slow to follow us. The leader is needed—the one man, the one woman !

In the meantime every one of Montreal's six hundred thousand citizens can do something—and MUST. The war is over—the war that accounted for so many young and happy lives. But the other crueller war still rages on every side of us; and we must fight, must enroll ourselves either under the banner of God or of Mammon, must save the Forgotten Army, too feeble, too pathetically helpless, to raise one tiny finger in its own defence, and yet so important an asset to our country, that, should it perish utterly, that country would perish with it.

IN THE NAME OF THIS FORGOTTEN ARMY WE
APPEAL—

HELP US!

Wanted \$10,000

Save One Thousand (1000) Innocent Lives
During 1919

Every Dollar Helps to Save a Baby
The City that has the Babies has the Future

Enclosed please find.....100 Dollars

From Mr.....

Mrs.....

Miss.....

Address.....

All cheques to be made payable to Baby Welfare Committee, Publicity Section.
Treasurer, Dr. L. M. Lindsay, 615 University Street, Montreal.

BABY WELFARE COMMITTEE, PUBLICITY SECTION

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

J. ARTHUR M... (President Baby Welfare Committee)
DR. W. A. L... (President Affiliated Baby Welfare Stations)
MISS O. Z. DEL... (Victorian Order of Nurses)
MRS. FENWICK WILLIAMS (Convenor)

BABY WELFARE COMMITTEE

DR. W. A. L. STYLES
DR. JAMES DUNCAN
DR. T. J. HEWITT
DR. L. M. LINDSAY
LEO RYAN, ESQ.
JOHN BRADFORD, ESQ.

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MME. H. GERIN LAJOIE
MME. BEAUBIEN
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MRS. FENWICK WILLIAMS
MRS. W. J. LEWIS
MISS DOROTHY A. HENEKER
MISS O. Z. DELANY, R.N.

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APPENDIX

BABY WELFARE COMMITTEE

Objects

The Baby Welfare Committee is composed entirely of volunteer representatives from organizations actively engaged in the various phases of Child Conservation. The 1918 Exhibit and Conference represents the second annual endeavour in the fulfilment of their objective to make Montreal a Better Place For A Baby To Live In, and by consequence, the making of Better Babies for Montreal and Canada, at large. Upon such broad national grounds the active support and co-operation of every citizen is solicited and should be forthcoming in these crucial days of unparalleled wastage of human life and natural resources.

Officers, Baby Welfare Committee, 1919

HONORARY PRESIDENTS—

DR. S. BOUCHER

MADAME H. GERIN LAJOIE MISS L. C. PHILLIPS

PRESIDENT—

J. ARTHUR MCBRIDE

VICE-PRESIDENTS—

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REV. D. MCLEOD

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HONORARY TREASURER—

DR. L. M. LINDSAY

HONORARY SECRETARY—

MISS DOROTHY A. HENEKER

HON. CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES—

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PROF. F. C. HARRISON

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MRS. E. F. WORFOLK

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MRS. ALEX MACKAY

MEDICAL EXECUTIVE—

H. C. BURGESS, M.D.	T. HEWITT, M.D.	E. J. SEMPLE, M.D.
W. W. CHIPMAN, M.D.	H. R. D. GRAY, M.D.	M. L. SHIP, M.D.
H. B. CUSHING, M.D.	R. ASHTON KERR, M.D.	W. A. L. STYLES, M.D.
J. E. DUBE, M.D.	L. M. LINDSAY, M.D.	W. E. WILLIAMS, M.D.
J. W. DUNCAN, M.D.	D. MASSON, M.D.	
J. R. FRASER, M.D.	J. A. ROULEAU, M.D.	

STAFF OF THE MONTREAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

DR. S. BOUCHER, Medical Officer of Health.
DR. J. E. LABERGE, Superintendent of Divisions of Contagious Diseases and Medical Inspection of Schools; Assistant Medical Health Officer.
DR. F. PELLETIER, Secretary and Chief Clerk.
DR. E. P. CHAGNON, Superintendent of Municipal Medical Services.
A. J. G. HOOD, V.S., Superintendent of Food Inspection.
R. G. MAYOTTE, V.S., Superintendent of Milk and Dairy Farms Inspection.
DR. H. ST-GEORGES, Superintendent of Laboratories.
DR. M. O'B. WARD, Statistician.
DR. EUGENE GAGNON, Statistician.

ORGANIZED EFFORTS AT PRESENT BEING MADE IN MONTREAL TO COMBAT AND REDUCE THE INFANT MORTALITY

1. Twenty-nine Baby Health Centres and Milk Stations—twenty-one French, eight English.
2. Two Baby Welfare Camps operating during summer months, one at Fletcher's Field, one at Lafontaine Park.
3. Baby Welfare Conference and Exhibit held annually in May.

Various organizations co-operating with Baby Welfare Committee are the Victorian Order of Nurses, C.O.S., Montreal Women's Club, Federation of Jewish Philanthropists, Patriotic League, Day Nursery.

BABY WELFARE CAMP (FLETCHER'S FIELD)

Operated by Baby Health Centre University Settlement

The camp was open last summer from June 15th to September 15th. It is recognized as one of the most powerful factors in the splendid effort now being made in the City of Montreal to reduce infant mortality and to conserve infant life.

Special Features of the Camp

Skilled (V.O.N.) baby nurse and doctor in daily attendance (Sundays included). Motor ambulance operated daily to bring and take home in the evening the delicate babies and tired mothers, from all parts of the City, without charge. Abundant daily supply of fresh milk and hot water to all applicants. The iced refrigerator can be used by all mothers to protect the baby's feedings, etc. Medical consultations, etc., daily, gratis. The location is admirable to give the mother and baby the cool fresh air, without the expense and difficulty of a tedious journey. The motor ambulance solves the question by driving from the home to the camp door. The third season of the camp commences June 15th. Visitors are always welcome.

BABY WELFARE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBIT, MAY, 1918

OBJECTS

This Child Welfare Exhibit is an endeavor to focus the attention of the community and responsible Government upon matters of public health by means of models, panels and posters, supplemented by conferences and demonstrations, with a view of the application of readily available principles of prevention,—rather than the more costly and oftentimes futile measures of treatment now in vogue, of disease-bearing conditions affecting the earlier period of childhood.

Organizations

Booths

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1—Montreal Baby & Foundling Hospital..... | Model Nursery |
| 2—Central Board of French Milk Stations.....
(Bureau Central des Gouttes de Lait) | |
| 3—Saint Justine's Hospital..... | Disease and Deformity |
| 4—University Settlement Baby Welfare Station.... | General Information, etc. |
| 5—Montreal Women's Club..... | Mouth Hygiene |
| 6—Babies' Clinic..... | Danger Signals |
| 7—Baby Welfare Camps (Fletcher's Field and La-
fontaine Park)..... | Summer Babies' Camps |
| 8—Montreal Department of Health..... | Little Mothers' Leagues |
| 9—National Federation of St. John the Baptist... | Baby Care |
| 10—Victorian Order of Nurses..... | Baby and You |
| 11—Montreal Local Council of Women..... | Father, Mother and Baby |
| 12—Montreal Local Council of Women..... | Social Hygiene |
| 13—Montreal Suffrage Association..... | Babies' Rights |
| 14—Social Service Dept. of Children's Memorial
Hospital..... | Swat the Fly |
| 15—Children's Memorial Hospital..... | Babies' Food—one year and over |
| 16—Northern District, W.C.T.U..... | Temperance and Baby |
| 17—Mothers' Assistance Association..... | Care of the Mother |
| 18—Montreal Housewives' League..... | Care of Milk |
| 19—Junior League of Montreal..... | Contrast Room,—clean and dirty |
| 20—Iverley Settlement Baby Welfare Station..... | Model Station |
| 21—Affiliated Baby Welfare Stations (English)..... | Weighing and Measuring Tests,
and Infant Food Exhibit |
| 22—Milk Inspection & Dairy Farms of Dept. of
Health of Montreal..... | Milk Supply of Montreal |
| 23—Royal Edward Institute..... | Tuberculosis and Baby |
| 24—Montreal Parks and Playgrounds Association... | Baby and Fresh Air |
| 25—Y.W.C.A., Girls' Department..... | Summer Activities |
| 26—University Settlement..... | Child Labor |
| 27—National Child Welfare Association (N.Y. City). | Exhibition of Panels, etc. |

AFFILIATED BABY WELFARE STATIONS (English)

Mount Royal Baby Health Centre.....	(St. Louis 8652), 1470 Cartier St.
Babies' Clinic (St. Anne's).....	(Main 4840), 11 Eleanor St.
Montreal Foundling and Baby Hospital Milk Station.....	(East 4488), 750 St. Urbain St.
Baby Health Centre, University Settlement.....	(Main 7592), 179 Dorchester St. W.
Iverley Settlement Milk Station.....	(Up. 4585), 2 Richmond Square
Chalmers House Milk Station.....	(LaSalle 808), 133 Delorimier Ave.
Baby Health Centre, Maisonneuve.....	(LaSalle 782), 10 First Ave., Maisonneuve
Verdun Baby Health Centre.....	Lasalle Road, Verdun

GOUTTES DE LAIT

Ste-Clotilde	102 rue Ste-Clotilde
Ste-Cunegonde.....	71 rue Vinet
Enfant Jesus.....	91 boulvd St-Joseph Est
St-Anselme.....	154 Hogan
St-Vincent-de-Paul.....	206 Dufresne
Emard.....	272 boulevard Monk
Rosemont.....	398 5e Avenue
St-Pierre.....	117 rue Ste-Rose
Ste-Helene.....	190 rue St-Maurice
St-Henri and St-Zotique.....	1832 rue Notre-Dame O.
Hochelaga.....	372 rue Desery
St-Joseph.....	308 rue Richmcd
St-Arsene.....	3283 Christophe-Colomb
Immaculee Conception.....	598 rue Papineau
Sacre-Coeur.....	645 rue Maisonneuve
St-Jean-Baptiste.....	765 rue Henri-Julien
Ste-Catherine.....	rue Robin
Ste-Brigide.....	224 rue Maisonneuve
St-Eusebe.....	640 rue Fullum
St-Francois d'Assise.....	Longue-Pointe

NOTES

In connection with the proposed survey for the Publicity Executive of the Baby Welfare Committee, of conditions affecting Infant life in the City of Montreal:—

Milk—

Laws governing supply and distribution, price, etc.—here and elsewhere.

Formulas—how meeting needs in poor families, possibility of application.

Stations—French and English—their organization; scope and nature of service; support, personal effect of service on problem through study of work through given period.

Disease—

Prevalency, epidemics—service during, preventive measures, etc.—venereal, mental (including feeble-mindedness).

Mortality—

Statistics—here and elsewhere, availability of, need for, etc., relation of facts ascertained through other topics to death rate, etc

Pre-natal conditions—

In home, in shop or factory, medical attention during, etc.

Housing—

Working Conditions—

Wages—

Industrial Insurance—

Child Labor and Laws Relating to—

Schools—

Suitability of buildings with relation to hygiene, teachers' qualifications as to knowledge and appreciation of child life.

Dispensaries and Health Centres—

Nursing—

Play Grounds—

Settlement Work—

Extent of Child Welfare Work undertaken, its influence on problem.

Drink—

Vice—

Illegitimacy—

Disposition and care of children.

Hospital Facilities and Service—

Institutional Care—

Study of certain institutions as types; subsidies by city, province, etc.—effects of.

Boarding in Private Homes—

Extent and nature of this method, organization of service, societies interested, etc.

Adoption—

Laws relating to, possibilities of.

Charity Societies—

Attitude toward problem, helpfulness, preventive measures.

Church—

Section-of-City Studies—

CAUSES OF HIGH INFANT MORTALITY

1. **Prenatal.**—One-third of the deaths under 1 year of age occur in the first month and are usually due to causes affecting the mother before the birth. Healthy parents are the first essential of healthy children. Children born of tuberculous, syphilitic or alcoholic parents have little chance of surviving. The employment of married women in stores, factories, etc., up to the time of confinement affects the strength and vitality of offspring. Race can be most effectively improved by preventing marriage by the unfit, the diseased, the degenerate, the defective, etc.

2. **Postnatal.**—IGNORANT OR INDIFFERENT MOTHERHOOD; IRRESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD; LACK OF BREAST FEEDING (90% of infant mortality occurs in babies deprived of breast feeding); IMPURE AND DIRTY MILK; INSANITARY HOUSING; INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT DURING NURSING PERIOD; RESULTS OF POVERTY, by inducing poor health, etc.

3. **Hot Weather.**—Over one-third of the deaths occur in Summer among infants; heat and humidity lower body resistance and render baby more susceptible to "Diarrhoea" from our impure and infected milk, overcrowding and other insanitary conditions.

METHODS OF PREVENTION

1. **Prenatal Care.**—The instruction and medical supervision of expectant mothers and competent obstetrical service.

2. **Intelligent Motherhood.**—Educate the mothers in the essentials of personal and baby hygiene. Dr. S. J. Baker, Chief of New York City's Child Hygiene, states that 80% of infant deaths are due to lack of information on part of mother.

"Give me good prenatal conditions and intelligent motherhood, and I have no doubt of the future of this or any other nation." (John Burns.)

The importance of breast-feeding (85% of Infant mortality occurs among bottled infants), cleanliness of any bottled food, regularity in feeding, and an understanding of baby hygiene are all needed. Inclusion at school for girls of subject of MOTHERCRAFT (maternal instinct alone is absolutely insufficient, as experienced doctors will advise).

3. **Supervised Milk Supply.**—From "pasture to pail and from pail to palate"; this is alone possible by clean barns, milkers and utensils, not taking the place of cleanliness in handling and care of milk; prompt delivery of milk (in Montreal, milk averages 48 to 60 hours old before delivery); having a bacteriological standard for milk (Montreal is unique among communities in having none such).

4. **Little Mothers' Leagues.**—These were first organized in New York City, in 1908,—purpose being to teach the girls in schools the proper care and feeding of babies; their slogan is, "Keep the Baby Well." We should have these leagues in all our schools. (From Baby Welfare Committee, P.O. Box 1823.)

PORTIONS OF CORRESPONDENCE HELD WITH CHAIRMAN OF CANADA FOOD BOARD BY MRS. FENWICK WILLIAMS IN FEBRUARY, 1918

QUESTION:—Why are not supplies needed for the Allies, beef, bacon, wheat, etc., commandeered by the Government, and the remainder thrown on the market at a fixed price?

ANSWER:—(a) How could the Government create an organization competent to commandeer beef, bacon, wheat, etc.?

MY ANSWER:—Very simply. Already large supplies are held to the order of the Allied Purchasing Board. Give orders that still larger supplies shall be held—that as much as

the Allies need shall be held. You know how much that is. Good! See that it is forthcoming.

Or again: if the Government can license retail and wholesale dealers in bread, with the object of regulating the price, delivery and consumption of bread, it ought to be possible—and just as easy—to control in the same way, beef, bacon and wheat.

SAME ANSWER: (b) What would be the effect of fixing the prices on the residue? No one could predict the effect of arbitrarily fixing prices on all food commodities.

MY ANSWER:—This is the most interesting and important point raised in your letter. I make a bold statement:—Prices are already fixed. They are fixed, not by the Canada Food Board in accordance with justice and fair play to the public, but by various Food Controllers and Syndicates of Food Controllers out of consideration for their own pockets. Who fixed the price of eggs this winter? You? The farmer who sold them last summer for 35 cents a dozen? Or the intelligent gentlemen who corralled the egg supply and held us all up for seventy-five cents a dozen for cold storage eggs. They fixed the price. You say that no one could foretell the result of your fixing prices. Let me point out a few results of these other Food Controllers fixing prices. Here they are:—

1. *Disgraceful infant mortality (in other words, child murder) in Canada.*
2. *Children growing up anaemic and rickety for want of proper food.*
3. *All but the rich obliged to go without pleasure and even comfort in order to pay the absurdly high prices asked for nourishing food.*
4. *Canada drifting to a state of bankruptcy in manhood power.*
5. *Steadily mounting class hatred as the poor see more and more clearly how systematically they are being swindled, and how little they are being protected.*

Could any fixing of prices by you—the authentic Food Controller—bring worse results than these?

QUESTION:—Why does not the Government commandeer all substitute foods such as eggs, fish, poultry, etc., and throw them on the market at a fixed price?

ANSWER:—There are no eggs to commandeer. Hitherto we have depended upon the importation of eggs, mostly from Chicago, to carry us over the period of non-production. At present these eggs are not available and we must depend upon the very meagre domestic supply.

MY ANSWER:—There may be no eggs just now to commandeer: but from Mr. O'Connor's report we find that 9,093 dozen spoiled in Montreal in January. Even now, in the period of least production, we find that there are enough eggs in Quebec to carry us over till the spring; and Quebec is less well supplied, I believe, than any other part of Canada. We always import a certain number of eggs, I know, but we imported far less this year than last. Yet prices never rose last winter above sixty cents—or any other year till this. We have been sold, swindled, exploited, by a few enterprising firms, and while I cannot help admiring their audacity and skill, my admiration is tempered by pity for the hungry children whom they have robbed. We call upon you, the Canada Food Board, to do your plain duty in this matter—I have already stated what I believe that to be, and I believe that, when the pressing immediate question of Food Production is attended to, you will set

to work with equal energy on the question of Food Manipulation. Already a few promising beginnings have been made—we have much hope of the new Food Board.

QUESTION:—What proof have we that the soldiers get what we go without ?

ANSWER:—All purchases for our soldiers overseas are made by a British Commission. So far there has been no reason to doubt their bona fides.

MY ANSWER:—I do not doubt that a British Commission appointed by Lloyd George and Rhondda is probably both intelligent and honest. My doubts lie elsewhere. I see that my question was awkwardly stated. What I meant was this. Do the dealers send back all the bacon we do not buy to the British Commission ? This seems such a round-about way of supplying a serious need. And if not, how do we know that the Allies get it ?

And now I am going to voice a very prevalent suspicion, in which I heartily share, with regard to the high price of food. Let me refer you in the first place to the report recently issued in the Star regarding the whiskey bought in the States for export to England. It cost 32 to 35 cents to make; it was sold at \$1.35. Thus the firm selling it makes a million dollars—out of the necessities of England fighting for her life ! *Que pensez-vous ?* We know that a contract exists between the British Commission and certain Canadian firms. We do not know what the terms of this contract are. We only know that England was very ably skinned just recently in the matter of whiskey by her dear Ally, and that Lord Rhondda was so aghast at the attempts made to skin him here a while ago, in the matter of munitions, that he fled to the U.S., which apparently gave him a somewhat squarer deal. So just how thoroughly the British Empire as represented by the British Commission is being skinned at present by its faithful colonies “well may I guess but dare not tell.” Do you know ? And will you tell me ?

Seriously; we feel that England is being made to pay through the nose by and to, **individuals**. And we feel that the prices fixed by the necessities of the Allies are setting the price for us. And we feel that you, the Food Board, and not these private individuals should fix the prices.

For instance; there was no shortage when Mr. Blank sent his produce across the water. *But the price he received fixed the price that we paid here.* Oh, the dear old political mystery dance ! How I do love to watch it ! But I do not like paying for its intricacies with the lives of Canadian children—**soldiers' children** ! “Nothing is too good for the brave boys !” sing the politicians. Ah, no, nothing ! *Not even a pauper's grave for their children murdered by insufficient food and poisoned milk !*

QUESTION 7:—Was Archdeacon Cody right in his statement that the Food Controller's first duty was to secure food for export to the Allies, not to fix prices ?

ANSWER:—Perfectly right in his statement.

MY ANSWER:—To feed the Allies is a sacred duty (also if possible to save them from being skinned in the process). But Archdeacon Cody's Master put another duty before it, “Feed my lambs.” See to it that in performing the one duty you do not neglect the other.

QUESTION 9:—As things stand now a Montreal baby has over ten chances to die compared with one experienced by his father at the front. The Federal Railroad Commission recently granted a fifteen per cent increase in tariff charges of our transportation companies—but nothing was done to make them provide refrigeration for the milk they carry on which the lives of Canada's future citizens depend. Now Messrs. Food Board, what is going to be done about this ?

ANSWER:—Permit me to assure you that the Canada Food Board will remedy or cause to be remedied all such abuses when time permits. *I may point out however that all such abuses should surely be attended to by responsible citizens of Montreal.*

STATISTICS COMPILED BY DR. W. A. L. STYLES

The Child's Fighting Chance in Montreal

Showing the percentage of Deaths among Infants under 1 year from "Diarrhoea."

	1915	1916	1917
New York.....	22%	18%	21%
Boston.....	18%	15%	18%
Detroit.....	20%	22%	21%
Toronto.....	14%	15%	13%
MONTREAL.....	44%	46%	42%

"Public health is purchasable: within natural limitations any community can determine its own Death-rate."

Montreal's Still-Birth Rate

1907-1916 Period: rate was 39.08 per 1,000 live births.

1917: rate was 48.30 per 1,000 live births.

"As many die before birth as during the twelve months after birth."

J. H. Larson, of New York Milk Committee, has shown where this organization alone reduced still-births in New York City 22%, and deaths under one month 28%.

Montreal's Statistics (1917)

	Birth Rate per 1000	Death Rate per 1000	Infant Mortality Rate per 100 Deaths	Child Death Rate per 100 Deaths	Natural Increase per 1000 Population
English-Canadians...	27.7	16.1	13.2	33%	11.5
French-Canadians...	37.4	19.8	19.2	50%	17.5
Jews.....	21.1	6.4	6.1	39%	14.6
All Others.....	29.3	16.5	20.7	56%	20.7

The 1917 Montreal Mortality Rate for Diarrhoea among those under 24 months of age was 27.5 per 10,000 of Montreal's population, as compared with a rate of 37.4 per 10,000 population for all Contagious Diseases and Cancer.

Of the 90,514 scholars examined in 1916-1917, in Montreal's Schools,—53% were found **PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE**, which represents an increase over the previous year.

"Education and Child Care are poor subjects for economy."

Montreal, in 1917, subsidized her 29 Baby Health Centers to the extent of \$10,000. In 1915, the subsidy was \$17,732. These Baby Health Centers show an average Infant Mortality of 4%, compared to the general civic Infant Mortality of 18%.

Montreal is 25 years behind New York City, and 15 years behind Toronto in her Infant Death-rate,—which is universally recognized as the most sensitive index of the sanitary condition of any community.

In Montreal, the Infant Mortality Rate for period (1905-1917) was 23%.

Latest available data (1916) shows that 33% of all Mortality within Quebec Province is confined within the narrow limit of the first year of life.

An infant under 1 year old dies every hour and a quarter in this Province.

"I consider that any Infant Mortality above 5% in large cities is absolutely unreasonable." (Prof. J. F. Sykes, London, Eng.)

Province of Quebec Vital Statistics

	1915	1916
Total Births.....	83,274	80,327
Total Deaths.....	35,933	40,542
Deaths under 1 year.....	12,775	13,278
Deaths under 5 years.....	16,516	17,117
Deaths from "Diarrhoea" under 2 years (Preventable Death) ..	5,681	6,630

"As Civilization goes up, the Baby death-rate goes down."

Some Infant Mortality Rates (1917)

St. Louis.....	7%
San Francisco.....	8%
New York City.....	8%
Brooklyn.....	8%
Boston.....	9%
Chicago.....	10%
Cleveland.....	10%
Toronto.....	8%
MONTREAL.....	18%

"Where the little white hearse goes most often,—there you will find the weakest place in your municipal housekeeping." (Sherman S. Kingsley, United Charities, Chicago.)

Public Health Expenditures

1—MONTREAL

	Health Expenditure	Per Capita Cost	General Death-Rate per 1000 Population	Infant Death-Rate Per 1000 Births
1917.....	\$189,613	\$0.31	17.7	178
1916.....	206,630	0.34	17.4	185
1915.....	228,805	0.40	17.9	182

2—NEW YORK CITY

1916.....	\$3,311,000	\$0.59	13.8	93
1915.....	3,508,000	0.64	13.9	98

NOTE.—The recognized MINIMUM for Public Health expenditure is \$0.50 per capita.

“Child Conservation is the Bargain Counter of modern Philanthropy.”

Annual Death-Rates Per 1000 Population

1906-1915 PERIOD

Quebec	Ontario	United States	New Zealand	England
18	13	14	9	14

Montreal's Statistics

	Birth- Rate per 1000	Death- Rate per 1000	Deaths Under 1 Year per 1000 Births	Death- Rate from Diarrhoea Under 2 Years Age
1907-1916.....	37.5	20.5	221	43.3%
1917.....	33.3	17.7	178	38.7%

The New York Milk Committee after several years' survey found that the average cost of maintaining each baby enrolled at a Baby Welfare Station was about twenty dollars (\$20.00).

“No Mother's Baby is Safe until every Mother's Baby is Safe.”

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